

## バーボールドと「未来」

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## Barbauld and Her Prospect

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This is part of research project to examine literary people's temporal views. My ongoing interests have been in the retrospective reflexive narratives. Eighteenth-century people were eager to write about their immediate past and also loved to tell their life stories from the beginning. Now my challenge is to have a look at somebody's views on the future. There are those living in the age of the Enlightenment who emphasise improvement which necessarily involves the future. There are those who are engaged in instructing the young, and there are those who are worried about their family's time ahead, their fortune and future. Yet, are they involved in seeing the future of their society?

Anna Barbauld was one of them. She was a writer and editor. Her prospect was wide and rich. She was quite erudite and she endeavoured to be an intellectual whose scope is extensive and whose insight profound. When she took a task of being an editor of Samuel Richardson's letters, she was meticulous and she tried to understand Richardson in the wide and long context of development of literature, which requires extensive knowledge. Her tendency was to collect, integrate and organise information from comprehensive sources. In terms of temporal axis, she was on the current point, keen to learn and discuss the topical issues armed with her vast knowledge historical and literary. She seems to have some kind of prospect heading for the future. This is a beginning of my attempt in examining her poem *Eighteen Hundred and Eleven*.